

Message Text

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15
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

AGRE-00 /106 W
----- 050380

R 291515Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6026
INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
USDEL MTN GENEVA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, UK, GATT
SUBJECT: ARTICLE 113 DISCUSSION OF GATT ISSUES

REF: EC BRUSSELS 9422

1. WE HAD A DISCUSSION ABOUT 113 MEETING WITH TOM
SHARP, DEPARTMENT OF TRADE ASSISTANT SECRETARY, WHO
FILLED IN FOR ROBIN GRAY WHO IS NOT EXPECTED BACK UNTIL
EARLY NOVEMBER. SHARP'S COMMENTS WERE ESSENTIALLY CON-
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SISTENT WITH REFTEL. FOLLOWING INFORMATION SUPPLEMENTS

SEVERAL POINTS.

(A) GATT MINISTERIAL MEETING. AKTER MENTIONING SAME DOUBTS AS OTHER MEMBER STATES HAVE ABOUT THE USEFULNESS OF SUCH A MEETING, SHARP ADDED THAT MOST PARTICIPANTS AT THE LUNCHEON DISCUSSION FELT THAT IF THE U.S. CONTINUES TO PRESS FOR A MINISTERIAL MEETING IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO AVOID; THERE WAS APPARENTLY SOME DISCUSSION OF A JUNE MINISTERIAL AS A COMPROMISE SOLUTION.

(B) SAFEGUARDS. SEVERAL EC COUNTRIES ARE INTERESTED IN PURSUING THE SELECTIVITY ISSUE AT AN EARLY POINT. UNDERSTANDABLY, GIVEN ITS ECONOMIC PLIGHT, THE UK WANTS AS A "BASIC RIGHT" THE OPTION TO ACT SELECTIVELY, SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATE CONTROLS. SHARP FINDS U.S. SAFEGUARDS PROPOSAL INADEQUATE ON THIS POINT.

(C) BRASILIAN REFORM PROPOSAL. UK IS THE MEMBER STATE THAT PREFERS THE U.S. DRAFT AS A STARTING POINT FOR SEEKING COMMON GROUND WITH BRASILIAN DRAFT.

(D) ON QUESTION OF USEFULNESS OF 113 MEETINGS AT PRINCIPALS LEVEL, SHARP SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY SERIOUS UK ANNOYANCE WITH THE RELATIVELY INCONCLUSIVE NATURE OF THE DISCUSSIONS.

ARMSTRONG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LONDON15511
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760368-0484
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976098/aaaaagmd.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 EC BRUSSELS 9422
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARTICLE 113 DISCUSSION OF GATT ISSUES
TAGS: ETRD, UK, EEC, GATT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006